

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A digital camera, comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system having a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body; and
a cover device configured to cover said lens and includes a cover member to cover
and uncover said lens by sliding in a vertical direction at the first side of said camera body.

2. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper
edge of the first side of said camera body.

3. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a flash device,
wherein said cover device is configured to cover said flash device.

4. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said cover device is configured
to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a
closed position to an open position.

5. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a display device
positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera
body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

6. A digital camera comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system having a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body; and
means for covering said lens by sliding in a vertical direction at said first side of said
camera body.

7. The digital camera according to Claim 6, wherein said means for covering said
lens includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed

position.

8. The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

9. The digital camera according to claim 6, further comprising a flash device, wherein said means for covering said lens is configured to cover said flash device.

10. The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said means for covering said lens is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said means for covering said lens is moved from a closed position to an open position.

11. The digital camera according to claim 6, further comprising a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

12. A method for protecting a digital camera, the digital camera including a camera body and an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of the camera body, said method comprising the step of:

covering the lens with a first cover device including a cover member configured to cover and uncover the lens by sliding in a vertical direction at the front of the camera body.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of covering a flash device of said digital camera with said cover device.

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein said cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein said digital camera further comprises a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.